

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 20 are amended. Claims 1, 2, and 20 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by placing the claims in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph;

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter. As indicated below, independent claim 20 has been amended to address the issue under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Therefore, independent claim 20 is in condition for allowance

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether or not the drawings have been accepted. Clarification is respectfully requested in the next official communications.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 2-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, the Examiner is directed to paragraph [0039] and [0040] of the specification as originally filed, which recite

[0039] The function of the communication system with a group registration function will be described in more detail with reference to flow charts shown in FIGS. 6 to 8. Referring to FIG. 6, when the main SW 32 of a body side unit 2 shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 is turned on, it is decided whether or not the registration SW 33a is turned on (step S1). That is to say, it is decided whether or not the main SW 32 and the registration SW 33a are simultaneously turned on. If the answer is affirmed (YES), the procedure goes on to step S7, in which member ID registration is executed. The execution of the member ID registration will be described later in detail with reference to FIG. 7.

[0040] If the answer in step S1 is denied (NO), that is, if the registration SW

33a is not turned on when the main SW 32 is turned on, the procedure goes on to step S2, in which initial setting is executed. In the initial setting, for example, the existing ID is loaded, or a voice level is reset to the previous value. The procedure goes on to step S3, in which it is decided whether or not the registration SW 33a is turned on. If the answer is affirmed (YES), the procedure goes on to step S8, in which a visitor ID registration is executed. The execution of the visitor ID registration will be described later in detail with reference to FIG. 8.

Further the Examiner will note that independent claim 20 has been amended merely to correct an informality.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 20 contain subject matter which is fully described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey that the inventors had possession of the claim invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Alterman et al. (U.S. 6,882,856) in view of Tabata et al. (U.S. 6,876,845). Further, claims 3, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alterman et al. and Tabata et al. and further in view of Sollner et al. (U.S. 5,506,837).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a communication system with a group registration function, including a plurality of communication devices each including:

a plurality of communication devices each including:

a group mode for selectively registering at least one specific communication partner in each of a plurality of groups, the group mode allowing communication only between a first group of the plurality of groups selectively registered and a second group of the plurality of groups selectively registered; and

a switch,

wherein after the plurality of said groups has been registered, the switch being adapted to enable switching of communication from the first group to the second group with a single operation of the switch.

Support for the features above can be seen, for example, in paragraph [0038] of the specification as originally filed.

With novel features set forth in independent claim 1, since the group to be selected as communication partners can be switched by a single operation, a rider can perform the switching operation even during running of a motorcycle or the like, thereby largely improving the operability.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Alterman et al.

In contrast to the present invention as set forth in claim 1, as can be seen in FIG 3 and the Abstract of the Alterman et al. document, this document merely discloses a method for setting up a dynamic group call by an originator. No specifics are disclosed regarding switching from one group to another group. In contrast the present invention, the Alterman et al. document provides no hint of “the switch being adapted to enable switching of communication from the first group to the second group with a single operation of the switch”, as set forth in independent claim 1.

Further, the Tabata et al. document is silent about “the switch being adapted to enable switching of communication from the first group to the second group with a single operation of the switch”, as set forth in independent claim 1.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Alterman et al. and Tabata et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Arguments Regarding Independent Claim 2 as Currently Written

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements set forth in independent claim 2 as currently written is not suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

Independent claim 2 as currently written recites a combination of elements in a communication system with a group registration function, including *inter alia* at least a power supply switch and a first switch operable by a user for registering at least a first group mode and a second group mode,

wherein if said first switch and said power supply switch are turned on simultaneously, the first group mode is registered, and if said first switch is turned on after said power supply switch is turned on, the second group mode is registered.

Support for the features of independent claim 2 shown above can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0039] and [0040] of the specification as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 2 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Alterman et al. and Tabata et al.

In contrast to the present invention, Alterman et al. merely discloses a method for setting up a dynamic group call by an originator. No specifics are disclosed regarding how switching is accomplished from one group to another group. In contrast to the present invention, the Alterman et al. document provides no hint of "wherein if said first switch and said power supply switch are turned on simultaneously, the first group mode is

registered, and if said first switch is turned on after said power supply switch is turned on, the second group mode is registered”, as set forth in independent claim 2.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 2 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Alterman et al. and Tabata et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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